


PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND PORT MEDICAL OFFICER INCLUDING THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1971

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

JUNE 1971

CHAIRMAN:

Alderman Mrs. N.E.C. Kemp

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Councillor the Reverend G.W. Loughborough

His Worship the Mayor
(Alderman L.T.J. Corbitt)

Alderman C.H. Barton

Alderman Miss L.C. Chamberlain

Councillor M.J. Armstrong

Councillor L.J.A. Bishop

Councillor T.G. Cole

Councillor Mrs. M.W. Davies

Councillor S.T. Groombridge

Councillor R.M. Stone

Councillor Mrs. M.R. Watson

Councillor P.J.A. Wood

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PORT MEDICAL OFFICER:

S.A. Boyd, M.D. (Vienna), D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E.A. Thompson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

C.H. Weller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b)

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

F. Brown, M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b) (d)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

D. Liles, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (b) (c)

B.G. Whitehead, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (e) (f)

R.A. Ward (Trainee)

CLERICAL STAFF:

J.S. Robertson

Miss F. Holliday

OTHERS:

G.C. Riordan - Supervisor, Public Conveniences,
Rodent Operator.

W. Liddle - Driver.

PUBLIC ANALYST:

J.H.E. Marshall, M.A., F.R.I.C. Canterbury.

- (a) Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Joint Board
- (b) Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods
- (c) Certified P.H.I. Education Board
- (d) Certificate, Food Hygiene R.S.I.
- (e) Diploma, P.H.I. Education Board.
- (f) R.S.H. Diploma in Air Pollution Control.

1.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1971.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee, and other officers of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S.A. BOYD,

Medical Officer of Health
and Port Medical Officer.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	3,624
Registrar General's estimate of population	39,770
Units of accommodation	14,108
Rateable Value at 31.12.71.	£1,581,202
General Rate	92p.
Estimated product of lp. rate.	£15,120

BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1970</u>
Number of live births:				
Legitimate	249	206	455	478
Illegitimate	36	26	62	49
	285	232	517	527

BIRTH RATE

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	13.0
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	15.5

(England and Wales - 16.0)

The illegitimate births was 12.0% of the total live births.

In order to meet the unequal distribution of the population according to age and sex, the Registrar General has supplied a correction factor of 1.19, and when the uncorrected Birth Rate is multiplied by this factor, it results in a corrected rate of 15.5.

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1970</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) was 6.0 as compared with 12.0 for England and Wales.

DEATHS OF INFANTS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Under 1 year of age - Total	4	3	7
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Under 4 weeks of age - Total	1	3	4
Legitimate	-	3	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Under 1 week of age - Total	-	3	3
Legitimate	-	3	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births = 14.0
(England and Wales = 18.0)

Legitimate Infant deaths per 1,000
 legitimate live births = 13.0

Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1,000
 illegitimate live births = 16.0

TOTAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1970</u>
Total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages -	294	324	618	605

TOTAL DEATH RATE

Uncorrected rate per 1,000 of population 15.5

Corrected rate per 1,000 of population 11.6

England and Wales 11.6

[illegible]

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Sex	All ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks and under 1 yr.	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	Over 75.
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Other diseases, genito urinary system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital anomalies	M	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
All other accidents	M	7	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
All other external causes	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	294	1	3	1	2	2	3	7	23	45	107	100
	F	324	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	14	39	72	194

The Death Rate shows a very slight decrease (0.1) as compared with the previous year. The Registrar General has supplied an area comparability factor of 0.75 which is used to adjust the crude rate in order to give a fair comparison with the rest of the country.

LUNG CANCER.

This disease was responsible for the deaths of 40 males and 9 females, and no doubt if enquiries were to be made, smoking would prove to be a contributory factor. It will be seen from the foregoing table that the deaths of 12 males and 4 females occurred under the age of 55 years.

TREND OF MORTALITY FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Year.	CANCER.		Cerebro-vascular disease.	Heart diseases.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.
	Total.	Lung+			
1962	111	39 (27.0)	64	203	69
1963	112	30 (26.7)	59	223	72
1964	107	29 (27.1)	77	169	63
1965	107	29 (27.1)	77	206	68
1966	110	39 (35.4)	72	194	54
1967	113	34 (30.0)	74	223	70
1968	128	40 (31.2)	81	211	60
1969	124	35 (28.2)	77	204	71
1970	92	22 (23.6)	75	203	64
1971	144	49 (33.0)	98	178	70.

(+ The figures in brackets show the percentage of cancer deaths due to cancer of the lung).

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The geographical situation of the Borough is 72 miles from London and 17 from Canterbury. It enjoys favourable weather conditions, low rainfall and high sunshine rate, with prevailing westerly winds.

There is a wide expanse of sand on either side of the harbour, whilst the latter is utilised to capacity in the import and export of motor vehicles without detracting from the holiday amenities of the port.

Employment is provided by catering for the holiday trade, shops, offices and small manufacturing firms on the outskirts of the Borough.

METEOROLOGY
(as recorded at Margate).

MONTHLY SUMMARY

<u>Month</u>	<u>Mean Temperature</u>		<u>Rainfall (mm.)</u>	<u>Sunshine (hours)</u>
	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>		
JANUARY	45.4	38.4	47.4	35.1
FEBRUARY	45.8	38.0	19.3	70.7
MARCH	45.7	37.7	37.2	116.5
APRIL	48.1	43.3	40.6	119.7
MAY	57.9	49.7	40.4	225.9
JUNE	61.5	52.1	80.2	169.4
JULY	64.6	58.5	38.3	236.7
AUGUST	67.3	58.2	50.7	173.1
SEPTEMBER	64.7	55.7	20.7	196.6
OCTOBER	61.2	51.0	30.2	164.0
NOVEMBER	51.0	41.7	52.7	91.2
DECEMBER	48.4	40.5	8.1	33.8
<hr/>				
Mean Total for year	51.0		465.8	
Average	51.3		(18.3 inches)	1632.7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Samples of water, ice cream and other pathological specimens are sent to the nearest Public Health Laboratory situated at Preston Hall, Maidstone.

Examination of pathological specimens are also carried out at the laboratories of Ramsgate and Margate Wings of the Isle of Thanet Hospital for medical practitioners.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A total of 11 radio controlled ambulances and 12 vehicles are based at the Ambulance Station in Haine Road. In all, 97,476 patients were carried by these ambulances during the year, the vehicles covering 328,845 miles. In addition 2,223 emergency cases were dealt with.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

The hospital car service conveyed 10,424 patients, the total mileage covered being 74,987.

MEDICAL COMFORTS.

Medical comforts, i.e. bath chairs, bed rests etc. can be hired from the St. John Ambulance Corps, Sussex Street, for a small weekly hire charge. The depot is open daily between 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. and provides a useful service both for residents and visitors. Emergency requests are dealt with by the Superintendent, telephone Thanet 51017. In addition, a first aid beach hut is provided and manned by the Corps during the summer months, where minor accidents can be dealt with on the spot, thus relieving a certain amount of pressure on the Ambulance Service. A mobile first aid caravan is also provided which covers all sporting and outdoor events.

MORTUARY.

The arrangement made with the neighbouring authorities of Sandwich Borough and Eastry R.D.C. still remains in operation. Persons dying in these areas on whom the Coroner has ordered a post mortem are removed to the mortuary in Ramsgate and a charge is levied.

The number of bodies admitted to the mortuary during 1971 was 120, all of which had a post mortem.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following table gives particulars of the days and times of clinics which are provided by the Kent County Council:-

Maternity and Child Welfare.At Health Centre.

Infant Clinic: Weds. 2-4 pm.
 Relaxation Classes:
 Thurs. 11-12 noon.

At Broad Street.

Tuesdays 2 - 4 pm.
 Thurs. 2 - 4pm.
 (Sale of food only).

School Health Service.

Minor Ailments : Alternate Wednesdays 9.30 a.m.
 Dental Clinic : By appointment.
 Ophthalmic : do.
 Speech Therapy: do.

HOSPITALS.

Mr. R.A.G. White, Secretary of the Isle of Thanet District Hospital, informs me that the following patients were dealt with at the Ramsgate Wing during 1971:-

		<u>1971.</u>	<u>1970.</u>
In-patients:	Admissions	2,728	2,274
Out-patients:	Accident and emergency dept.	7,100	6,641
Special Departments:	Medical	331	366
	Surgical	1024	1026
	Gynaecological	418	436
	Ophthalmic	620	608
	Paediatric	116	80
	Ear, Nose & throat	966	905
	Rheumatic	49	59
	Ante-natal	491	559
	Post-natal	110	120
	Dermatological	420	397
	Mental illness	117	111
	Orthopaedic	1611	1708
	Dental	-	-
	Physical medicine	206	219
	Diseases of the chest	251	258
	Radiotherapy	95	111
	Diabetic	2	2

The number of units of work performed in the Radiological and Physiotherapy Departments was :-

	<u>1971.</u>	<u>1970.</u>
Radiological	26568	26282
Physiotherapy	14838	21274

HAINE HOSPITAL (IN-PATIENTS).

Infectious diseases	50	110
Medical	325	438
Geriatric	134	145
Dermatological	143	133

Units of work performed in the Occupational Therapy Department :-

2089	2058
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NURSING HOMES ACT 1963.

This Act, which came into operation in 1963, repeals Section 192 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with exemption from registration, and also empowers the Department of Health and Social Security to make Regulations as to the conduct of Nursing Homes. At the end of 1971, there were two nursing homes on the register with a total bed accommodation for 82 medical or elderly patients.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951.

These Acts give authority to secure necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, are aged, infirm and living in insanitary conditions and are also unable to devote to themselves proper care and attention. At the end of 1971 one such case was referred by a medical practitioner and an application was made to a Justice of the Peace for removal to hospital, the patient was subsequently removed to Hill House Hospital.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50.

Section 50 of this Act gives power to Local Authorities to be responsible for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or has been found dead and no arrangements have been made or the deceased has no relatives.

During 1971, three burials were arranged and in two of the cases, all expenses were met in full by the Treasury Solicitor from the estates. In the third case, the Local Authority met all expenses in the sum of £30.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service is administered by the Kent County Council. During 1971, approximately 311 cases of sick and aged persons received help each week. 54 Helps were employed.

In addition, the following services are also administered by the Kent County Council.

1. Family Care Service

This is provided for the short-term care of children in their own homes during the absence of the mother and is limited to a period of 3 months. The service only obtains when a family has two or more children. In most cases the absence of the mother is owing to her admission to hospital for illness or confinement but the service may also be provided where the mother has died or deserted her family. Service is provided during the time the father is away from home and in 1971 three such cases were assisted.

2. Family Welfare Service

This is a teaching service provided for a mother who needs advice and guidance upon all aspects of household management, and budgeting and care of children. It is a free service. Intensive training for a period of three months is given in these households and this is succeeded by follow-on-service of 6 hours per week for a further nine months, and supervisory visits are made for 5 years from the commencement of service. One such case was assisted in 1971.

3. Evening Service

This service is provided for people who are bedridden or housebound and have no-one to assist or help them to prepare for the night. Duties include undressing crippled or feeble people and putting them to bed, attention to toilet, fires and provision of a light meal or hot drink. During 1971 seven such cases were assisted.

4. Night Attendance Service

Night service is provided for not longer than three weeks for the care of the seriously ill who are living in their own homes and one such case was assisted during 1971.

HOME NURSING MIDWIFERY SERVICE

These services are provided by the Kent County Council. Four District Nurses and four Midwives are employed in the Borough.

OTHER HOMES

There are five Homes in the Borough for Elderly Persons, registered with the Kent County Council, accommodating some 78 persons, and a privately run Home accommodating 39 blind persons, which is exempt from registration.

FAMILY PLANNING

The Family Planning Association holds a weekly clinic at Ramsgate at the Health Centre, Newington Road, by permission of the K.C.C.

The Branch was started eight years ago. At first the attendances were small, but have grown since the commencement and now average over 30 patients a session. There are over 500 patients on the register and weekly sessions are held on Wednesday at 6.30 p.m. by appointment. A small fee is charged, but this is waived if circumstances warrant it.

The staff consists of a doctor, three nurses, working on a rota basis, and voluntary lay-workers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER SUPPLY

The Thanet Water Board is responsible for the supply of water within the Borough. This has been found to be sufficient for all purposes, and there have been no changes in the sources of supply. All the houses within the Borough have a direct supply from the mains; there are no stand pipes.

The water is taken from adits in the deep chalk strata, has a high standard of purity and there is no plumbo-solvency. The hardness is mainly temporary and is removed by boiling. All water is chlorinated before being passed into the public supply.

The Water Board maintain its own routine of sampling for bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis, and this Department is kept informed of the results. Samples are also taken by the Public Health Inspectors for bacteriological examination at monthly intervals, these are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone. In addition samples are taken for chemical analysis quarterly, and sent to the Public Analyst at Canterbury. One of these reports, taken as typical is reproduced herewith:-

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Odour: None

Parts per Million

Free Ammonia	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.004
Nitrite	absent
Nitrate	18.0
Chloride	86
Alkalinity (CaCO_3)	250
Total Hardness	304
Permanent Hardness	54
Sulphate	20
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.05
Total Solids	540

Microscopic examination revealed the usual mineral and vegetable fragments.

There is excellent co-operation between the officers of the Water Board and the Public Health Department, and no effort is spared to ensure that the public is given a pure and wholesome supply of water.

COASTAL WATERS

In conjunction with the neighbouring towns, the sampling programme of coastal waters was continued during the year. Examination of the samples obtained was carried out in the Science Department of the Thanet Technical College, under the direction of Dr. R. Knight.

Also in conjunction with the neighbouring towns, arrangements were made with a firm of Consultant Engineers to carry out a complete survey of the method of sewage disposal to the sea, and to make recommendations for any improvements or changes to this method that may appear desirable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The extension to the Newington Trunk sewer has now been completed and the extra development at Sparkes Nursery together with the additional schools can now be adequately coped with by the drainage system which exists in the Newington area. The Council have put on their Capital Programme for the forthcoming Financial Year the design and construction of a main drainage system to serve the Haine area where at the present time there is no main drainage. The whole area being on cesspools, it is anticipated that initial investigations will commence in the Spring.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sir Frederick Snow & Partners, the Consulting Engineers, have now completed their Tidal Survey of the sea outfalls of the three Thanet towns and a Report upon the findings of this Survey and upon the conditions of the three outfalls is expected in the near future. The Council have included in their Capital Programme for a scheme to duplicate the existing treatment plant at Ramsgate to provide a stand-by facility in case of breakdown and thus to ensure that at all times the effluent is treated before it passes out to sea.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Corporation have now implemented the first stage of their proposal to provide a paper sack system of refuse collection. The whole of the Newington Estate together with 3,000 properties to the West of the Borough have now been equipped with sack-holders and it is anticipated that a further 3,000 properties will be put on this system in April. The general public seem to accept this new system. There have been few complaints and it definitely assists the collectors by speeding up their activities. The new Shelvoke & Drewry Revopak 18/60 cu.yd. vehicle has now been delivered and this also has improved the system of collection. Disposal of Ramsgate's refuse is still taking place at the Sandwich Road tip, and it could well be that this site is used for a further 2 years.

The construction of a containing wall of colliery shale is at present under way and the area then available, together with the additional volume which the County Council have given approval to, will then be tipped upon.

The construction of the joint pulverising plant for Thanet is due to commence in the early Spring. This treatment works is planned to deal with the whole of Thanet's refuse and will be sited at Richborough. This will initially deal with Broadstairs' and Margate's refuse and Ramsgate's will be directed to the new plant as soon as the Sandwich Road tip is used up. The total amount of refuse collected during 1971 was 126,177 cu.yds.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 7,280 visits during the year. Detailed information concerning this work is to be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which follows.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified to the Department during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>No.</u>
Scarlet Fever	5
Measles	70
Whooping Cough	17
Infective Jaundice	5
Acute Meningitis	1
Food Poisoning	1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The County Medical Officer informs me that the following were carried out under County Council arrangements in 1971:-

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-inforcing</u>
Triple Antigen	504	95
Diphtheria/Tetanus	18	479
Smallpox	431	121
Tetanus	19	38
Measles	197	-
Polionyelitis	546	568
Rubella	196	-

TUBERCULOSIS

It was not found necessary to take any action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New cases by age groups are shown below.

		<u>New Cases</u>			
<u>Age Group</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>	
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0	- 5	-	-	-	-
5	- 15	-	-	-	-
15	- 25	1	-	-	-
25	- 35	-	-	-	-
35	- 45	-	1	-	-
45	- 55	2	-	-	-
55	- 65	1	3	-	-
Over 65		-	-	-	-
TOTAL		4	4	-	-

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1971 was:-

	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
On Register 1.1.71.	74	48	11	12	145
New Cases notified.	4	4	-	-	8
Cases restored to register	1	-	-	-	1
Other additions to register (transfers in etc.)	2	3	1	-	6
Cases Removed from register.	14	8	2	4	28
Remaining on register 31.12.71.	67	47	10	8	132

VENEREAL DISEASE

Special clinics for the treatment of these diseases are held at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Canterbury Road, Margate and the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.

The Medical Officer in charge of the Clinic informs me that during the year 1971, a total of 143 cases from Ramsgate were treated, i.e. 34 Gonorrhoea and 109 other conditions.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1971

The following is a copy of the detailed report rendered to the Department of Health and Social Security:-

SECTION I.STAFFTABLE A

Medical Officer of Health - S.A. Boyd, M.D. (Vienna) ., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector - C.H. Weller, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

SECTION IIAMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

<u>Ships From:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>No. inspected by M.O.H. P.H.I.</u>	<u>No. reported as having, or having had during voyage, infectious disease on board</u>
Foreign ports	421	122,167	- 17	-
Coastwise	108	Not known	- -	-
TOTAL	529	122,167	- 17	-

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE

Passenger Traffic	Number of passengers INWARDS	202
	Number of passengers OUTWARDS	183
Cargo Traffic	Principal IMPORTS - Vehicles	
	Principal EXPORTS - Vehicles	

Principal ports from which ships arrive:- Antwerp and Emden.

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

None.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY(1) Source of Supply(a) For district

Supplied by Thanet Water Board.

(b) For shipping

From town mains.

(2) Reports of tests for contamination

Four samples are obtained by the Public Health Department each month, two from the adits of untreated water, and two from the mains of treated water, and these are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. In addition, one sample is submitted each quarter to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis.

All results showed that there was no evidence of sewage contamination. The supply is pure and wholesome.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes

Hoses used for shipping are stored in a closed barrow and flushed before use.

(4) Water Boats

None in use.

SECTION VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS(1) List of Infected Areas

Close liaison is maintained between H.M. Customs and the Public Health Department, and information would be given should the Customs Officer have reason to believe that a ship was arriving from a foreign port named in the weekly list.

(2) Radio Messages

The port has not been declared a Radio Transmitting Port Under Regulation 12.

(3) Notification other than by Radio

Notification is first received by H.M. Customs Officer, who in turn immediately forwards the information to the Medical Officer of Health. All Declarations of Health are dealt with in this manner.

(4) Mooring Stations

Proposals submitted by H.M. Customs and Harbour Authorities in 1935 are still in force, and are as follows:-

- (a) Mooring Station within docks - the place of mooring, discharge of loading, the ship being shored off from the quay and so moored as to prevent contact with any other ship.
- (b) Mooring Station outside docks - the outer middle ground buoy in the outer basin of the harbour in bad weather. In good weather, the Ramsgate Roads.

(5) Arrangements for -(a) Hospital accommodation

Cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, accommodated at Haine Hospital, Ramsgate, under control of Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee.

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts

Contacts proceeding out of the area - would be advised to report to the Medical Officer of Health of the District of their destination, and confirmation sent by this Department.

- (c) The services of the Public Health Department would be available, and all clothing etc. dealt with.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX(1) The name of Isolation Hospital

The Long Reach Hospital, Dartford.

(2) Transport

By Kent County Council Ambulance Service.

(3) Consultants

- (1) Dr. J.C. Blake, 38 Stambourne Way,
West Wickham, Kent.

- (2) Dr. E.H. Brown, Hither Green Hospital,
Hither Green, London, S.E.13.

- (3) Dr. E. O'Sullivan, "Ashton",
Church Road, Hartly, Dartford, Kent.

- (4) Dr. C.F.L. Hill, Brook General Hospital,
Shooters Hill Road, London, S.E.18.

(4) Laboratory Diagnosis

Central Public Health Laboratories, Colindale, N.W.9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

No international arrangements are in operation. Posters setting out location and time of the V.D. Clinic held at Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate are displayed in public conveniences.

The day and times of clinics are:-

Fridays: Females 10 - 11 a.m.

Males 11 - 12 noon.

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS
- TABLE D

NIL.

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON OCCURRENCES OF MALARIA

NONE.

SECTION XI - MEASURES AGAINST PLAGUE

NONE.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) Procedure for inspection

All ships from foreign ports are normally inspected by the Public Health Inspector. The services of the Rodent Operator are available if required.

(2) Arrangements for bacteriological examination

It has not been found necessary to make special arrangements.

(3) Arrangements for De-ratting

The port is not a designated approved port.

Table E - Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

NIL.

TABLE F - De-ratting and De-ratting Exemption Certificates Issued

Number of De-ratting Certificates Issued - N/A.

Number of De-ratting Exemption Certificates issued - Nil.

In accordance with Article 17 of the International Health Regulations, the Secretary of State approved and designated the Port for the issue of De-ratting Exemption Certificates as from 1st April, 1971.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCE - TABLE G.

<u>Nature and number of inspections</u>	<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Notices served: Other</u>	<u>Result</u>
Routine inspections by P.H. Inspectors 17	-	-	-

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations have been in operation since December, 1925. These Regulations prohibit the sale of cockles taken from a prescribed area in Pegwell Bay until they have been subjected to sterilisation by steam under pressure for at least six months, the sterilisation must be carried out by the Local Authority or in a manner approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS AND COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

This section is applicable only to ports which are approved for the landing of aliens and applies, in this instance, to the International Hoverport, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate.

The Hoverport commenced operations on 2nd April, 1969 and conveys passengers and cars from Ramsgate to Calais, and return. No merchandise is carried.

(i) Medical Inspection of Aliens

The following medical practitioners hold warranty of appointment under the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1968 and the Aliens Order 1953:-

BRIANT, Dr. B.A.	REYNOLDS, Dr. R.	WATSON, Dr. A.K.I.
SOUTHALL, Dr. M.H.	VALENTINE, Dr. P.	SEMPLE, Dr. W.J.
LOVELESS, Dr. J.A.	ADAM, Dr. E.J.	YEARSLEY, Dr. J.K.N.
THOMPSON, Dr. E.A.	BISSELL, Dr. S.W.	BOYD, Dr. S.A.
HUTTON, Dr. S.W.R.	STOWE, Dr. J.	CRAWFORD, Dr. W.A.
GRUGEON, Dr. P.	DAVIS, Dr. P.A.H.	McAVOY, Dr. B.J.
CRAWFORD, Dr. K.P.E.	HARRIES, Dr. D.G.	NEDEN, Dr. D.A.J.
BEALE, Dr. J.D.	STUART, Dr. G.W.	REEVES, Dr. M.T.

(ii) Nature and amount of Aliens Traffic

The following is a summary of the passenger traffic using the Hoverport during 1971:-

Total passengers:-	Inwards	309,133
	Outwards	300,952

Number of arriving hovercraft carrying Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants - 2,092.

Number of passengers subject to Control:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>No. medically examined</u>	<u>Not permitted to land or refused entry</u>	<u>Number landed conditionally</u>
Aliens	107,297	66	Nil	N/A
Commonwealth Immigrants	9,095	Nil.	Nil	Nil

(iii) Accommodation for Medical Inspector

The accommodation provided is in accordance with that set out in Appendix 'A' of Memorandum Part 10 issued by the Ministry of Health, which is situated within easy access of the arrival points. Of the four rooms, one (the Isolation Room) was made available for use by Hoverlloyd Limited from the middle of the summer subject to one week's notice and suitable financial adjustment of rent paid by the Department.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

There are no arrangements in operation for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease. Should such an eventuality arise, all arrangements would be carried out by the Local Authority under the personal supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING ACT, 1957

CLEARANCE AREAS

Borough of Ramsgate (Chatham Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969

This area was represented on 7th January, 1969; a Public Inquiry was held on the 18th August, 1970, confirmation from the Ministry was not received until 26th March, 1971.

All the houses had been represented as being unfit, the Inspector found that the properties in the Clearance Area had been properly represented, but one house was found not to be so far defective as to be unfit, but was congested and badly arranged in the area, the road onto which it faced was narrow and heavily trafficked, and, because of the narrowness and bad arrangement of the street was dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants of the area.

The Order now having been confirmed with this variation, acquisition of the properties is proceeding, but had not been completed at the end of the year.

Upper Dumpton Park Road

Inspection in this area is complete and reports have been prepared. In view of the present emphasis on improvement of the older houses, this area is being considered in the context of an improvement area. I am of the opinion that the area is much too small, and because of bad arrangement, the narrowness and bad arrangement of the street and the condition of the houses, it is not suitable for treatment as a general improvement area. The houses have passed their useful lives, there is disrepair and dampness and it is considered that even after improvement the houses would not provide satisfactory living accommodation for thirty years.

In view of this, a survey is being put in hand, extending over the adjoining areas, to ascertain the condition of the dwellings, the position regarding the provision of standard amenities, and to assess the possibility of a general improvement area.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

SECTION 16

Three Demolition Orders have been made during the year, the houses had not been vacated and had not been demolished at the end of the year. The two houses outstanding from last year have been demolished.

Closing Orders have been made on three houses where demolition was impracticable, that is they are so situated that they could not be demolished without affecting the stability of the adjoining houses, one of these was still occupied at the end of the year.

SECTION 18

One basement dwelling has been closed, but the occupiers have not yet been found alternative accommodation. Representation was made in respect of the basement at one house, where there were other items of disrepair. The occupier of this property entered into a contract for purchase and gave an undertaking to carry out works, which was accepted. This work was well in hand, but not complete, at the end of the year. The owner of one basement dwelling was in breach of an undertaking to carry out works, given in January, 1970, as a result the Closing Order was made.

Closing Orders have been determined on two dwelling houses, which have been renovated and provided with the standard amenities and works at the two houses referred to in last years report where demolition orders had been made are now complete and the demolition orders removed.

The following table sets out the position as reported to the Department of the Environment. These figures are compiled from the quarterly returns sent to the Department.

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

<u>In clearance areas</u>	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced:</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
<u>Not in clearance area</u>	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced:</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1)	-	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	<u>Number</u>
(v) Under Sects. 16(4), 17 (1), and 35 (1), Housing Act 1957.	3
(vi) Under Sects. 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.	-
(vii) Parts of Building closed under Sect. 18 Housing Act, 1957.	2

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(viii) After informal action by Local Authority	158	-
(ix) After formal notice under:-		
(a) Public Health Acts	2	-
(b) Sects. 9 and 16 Housing Act	3	-
(x) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act	-	-

Housing Accommodation

(1)	Number of new applications for housing accommodation received during the current year.	486
(2)	Number of families housed from current waiting list.	136
(3)	Number of Corporation tenants transferred to other accommodation within the Corporation Housing Estates.	118
(4)	New properties completed during 1970/71	29
(5)	Number of properties at present under control of Corporation.	2,908

HOUSING ACT 1964SECTION 19

Three tenant applications have been received under the provisions of Section 19. The tenant of one house has purchased the property since making his application and has carried out the improvements with grant aid. The remaining two were still outstanding at the end of the year. Two tenant applications are still outstanding from the previous year, but an application for an improvement grant has been made in respect of one of them. It became necessary to execute work in default in respect of two houses where the owner had failed to carry out works after an immediate improvement notice.

HOUSING ACT 1969Improvement Grants

Applications for improvement grants are being dealt with in the Borough Engineer's Department, but each application is referred to the Public Health Department. Each house is inspected by a Public Health Inspector, where defects are found a schedule is prepared and sent to the owner. Payment of grant is made conditional on repairs being carried out. Although the procedure is cumbersome, it does ensure that necessary repairs are carried out at the same time as the improvements. The renovation of vacant houses by builders with the aid of a grant has become a regular feature, the merit of this is that it does improve the housing stock. Two houses, the subject of Closing Orders, which otherwise would have fallen derelict have been dealt with in this manner.

The following information concerning applications for improvement grants has been supplied by the Borough Engineer's Department.

Type of Grant	Applications:		Amount approved
	Received.	Approved.	
Standard	88	59	£10,272
Discretionary	96	74	£47,416

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

There has been a number of applications for qualification certificates where landlords wish to apply for a regulated rent. These applications do not come into the Department directly, but are referred from the Town Clerk's department. An inspection is carried out in each case to check the landlords statements. Houses are not always in 'good repair' and the landlord is notified accordingly. Usually there is no difficulty in securing the execution of repairs in these circumstances. Surprisingly it is sometimes found that houses are lacking in some of the standard amenities, one would expect a landlord to know that his houses were without, say, a hot water supply or internal sanitation. In these cases the procedure is rather different, landlords are advised to apply for a standard grant to make good the deficiencies and to combine this with an application for a qualification certificate.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

No action has been taken to implement the provisions of Part II of the 1969 Act, which concerns general improvement areas. This is a matter which requires very careful consideration, to my mind, the basic principal is to improve the dwelling houses by the provision of standard amenities where these are absent, and to bring them into a proper state of repair. The repair of dwellings can be enforced by the use of the appropriate sections of the Housing Act 1957; there is no means of enforcing the provision of the standard amenities, one can only try powers of persuasion, except that tenants can make representation under Section 19 of the 1964 Act, which does confer powers of enforcement on the local authority. All these matters come within the scope of the Public Health Department, but when a General Improvement Area is to be declared, other disciplines become involved.

A general improvement area must be predominantly residential and the local authority must be satisfied that living conditions in the area ought to be improved, and that they will be able to secure, or assist with, such an improvement, whether by improving the dwellings within the area, or carrying out environmental work within the area, or both.

The dwellings must be structurally sound, capable of being put into good repair and improvement to the "12 point standard" and, after completion of works of repair and improvement, provide satisfactory living accommodation for a period of 30 years.

The area must be made more attractive to live in, it is not sufficient to deal with the dwellings in isolation. Attention must be given to planning and the provision of area amenities. Improvements in street lighting, the exclusion of through traffic, play spaces for children, paved or grassed areas, tree planting, parking spaces and garages.

These matters are outside the scope of the Public Health Department, and other Departments must become involved.

Inspection of District

The systematic inspection of houses in the area as required by Section 70 of the 1969 Act is proceeding slowly. This task is being carried out by the District Public Health Inspectors who have many other duties to perform. It is realized that this type of survey must be carried out if any movement is to be made in the implementation of Part II of the Act, (General Improvement Areas).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

There is one pasteurising plant operating within the Borough, this serves an area extending well beyond the Borough boundaries. All milk is treated by the H.T.S.T. process. There is no processing plant for ultra heat treated milk. The dairy is subject to frequent inspection, and is working satisfactorily. There have been no complaints concerning dirty milk bottles during this year, indeed this dairy now has a commendable record.

Examination and Testing

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals from various points in the chain of distribution and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall for methylene blue and phosphatase tests. School milk is sampled as routine and results of the examinations sent to the Education Authority. Sixty-six samples of pasteurised milk were taken, of which seven failed the methylene blue test, but all passed the phosphatase test. The failures were pasteurised outside the area and the matter was taken up with the Local Authorities concerned.

Samples of raw untreated milk are not taken, therefore there has been no examination for brucellosis. All milk is delivered to the dairy for processing bulked in tankers, therefore, it is not possible to identify the source of supply with certainty.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

Milk

Thirty-nine samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis, all were found to be satisfactory.

The presumptive standard for milk as laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations is 3% fats and 8.5% solids not fat. A rather higher standard of fat, 4%, is fixed for Channel Islands Milk, this is an absolute standard, but there is no variation in the standard for solids not fat. This is a fair average standard, and over the years it has been found that the average for both fats and solids not fat is much higher than laid down by the presumptive standards.

The annual average over a period of the last four years is set out below:-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Fats	4.13	4.05	4.10	4.38
Solids not fat	8.75	8.55	8.56	8.80
Total	12.88	12.60	12.66	13.18

A break-down of the figures for 1971 only gives:-

(1) Pasteurised milk average:	Fats	3.66
	Solids not fat	8.66
	Total	12.32
(2) Channel Islands Milk Average:	Fats	4.60
	Solids not fat	8.89
	Total	13.49

ICE CREAM

Forty samples of ice cream were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and grading. Results are as set out below:-

	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
Soft Ice Cream		14	2	-	3
Other Ice Cream		21	-	-	-

Samples are invariably taken from premises. Mobile vendors are operating in the town, but do not commence trading until mid-day. This is much too late for sampling, the distance to the laboratory is such that samples taken after mid-day would not arrive in time.

Most of the ice-cream sold is the pre-packed product supplied by the National Companies, there is one local producer, and there is a trade in soft ice-cream, served directly from the freezer.

FOOD PREMISES

There are known to be 517 premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 apply, and there are some 36 stalls at the weekly market at Dumpton to which the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Vehicles) Regulations apply. The breakdown is as follows:-

Food Retailers, Grocery and Provisions, Butchers, Fishmongers, Greengrocers, Bakers and Confections, etc. -	220
Hotels and Boarding Houses -	90
Licensed Houses - Inns -	73
Licensed and Registered Clubs -	24
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and Fishfryers -	76
School Kitchens (L.E.A. and Private)	6
Commercial and Industrial Canteens -	3
Food Factories and Bakehouses -	12
Wholesale Warehouses -	13
	<u>517</u>
	=====

These figures have been compiled from available records. Food premises do not have to be registered as such unless they are engaged in one of the activities set out in Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, i.e. the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream, or the preparation or manufacture of sausages or cooked meats, therefore the figures given must be regarded as an approximation.

Food premises are subject to frequent inspection. The importance of frequent visits to food premises cannot be overstressed, by this means a good standard is maintained, and failure to observe the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations is noted and can be checked at its onset. Established traders appreciate the help and advice given by the Public Health Inspectors, and are co-operative on these matters. Difficulties can and do arise from the mushroom type of trade, which springs up almost overnight, and those whose trade is confined solely to the holiday season. With the seasonal trade the need for a vigilant inspectorate is very apparent.

Offences against the Food Hygiene Regulations have been noted and dealt with informally. However three cases were reported to the Health and Housing Committee and prosecutions were authorised.

One concerned a restaurant, another a retail shop, in each of these the works were carried out before the hearing and the prosecutions were dropped. The remaining one concerned a confectionery manufacturer carrying on a seasonal trade. The prosecution was taken on six counts; although the defendant pleaded guilty to all charges, the magistrates found for the Corporation on three charges only, giving discharges on the other three. Fines amounting to £30 were imposed, together with £15 costs.

The two cases referred to in the Report for 1970 were heard during 1971.

The first concerned a restaurant which had been found in a most unsatisfactory condition. The prosecution was taken on 21 counts and the defendants were found guilty and fined a total of £42. Furthermore, an application was made to the Court under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for disqualification, and the defendants were disqualified from using the premises for a period of 12 months. The defendants then proceeded to rectify the conditions, and after a lapse of six months made application to the Court for the disqualification to be removed, which was granted.

The second concerned a Supermarket where prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were taken at the same hearing. There were 10 counts under the Food Hygiene Regulations, the defendants were found guilty on each count and fined a total of £190.

The weekly market at Dumpton continues. There are some 36 food stalls in the market - butchers, general groceries, fish and shellfish, greengrocers, etc., which are visited each week to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Vehicles) Regulations. Although I do not like the situation where open food is being sold from open stalls in this manner, it is permitted by the Regulations, and must be accepted.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough, therefore slaughtering does not take place.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Containerised meat continues to arrive from the west coast ports in a steady stream. The meat is imported from Ireland, and is not being inspected at the port of arrival, having customs clearance only. It is dispatched to the wholesale meat traders and from there is distributed to the retail trade. The expected time of arrival is known, and inspection is carried out at the depots before distribution takes place. It is not unusual for the meat to have been inspected before the notice of pending arrival is received from the importing authority. This meat is found to be high quality, it is rare for there to be any evidence of disease or other forms of unfitness.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD SAMPLING

A total of one hundred and twenty-three samples of various foods (36 formal and 87 informal) were taken and submitted for analysis, and, where appropriate, these samples were examined for the presence of preservatives. All were found to comply with the Preservatives in Food

Regulations.

PROSECUTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

Seventeen complaints were reported to the Health and Housing Committee and eleven prosecutions were authorised. Other complaints have been received from members of the public, in the most part justifiable, but so often complainants refuse to give evidence in the Courts, and these complaints are dealt with on an informal basis. Usually satisfaction is obtained.

Ref: F.D. 1/71 - Mouldy Pork Sausages

This complaint concerned a 1 lb. package of pork sausages purchased at 11 a.m. on 15th February and found to be mouldy on being opened in the afternoon. On reference to the code marking, it was found that the sausages had been made on 13th January. Proceedings were taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £15 with £3 costs.

Ref: F.D. 2/71 - Mould in Cheese and Bread Rolls

These rolls were purchased from a Snack Bar at 9.10 a.m. to take away. When examined at 10 a.m. the same day, patches of mould were found on the cheese filling. Proceedings were taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £10 with £3 costs.

Ref: F.D. 3/71 - Mouldy Apple Strudel

This apple strudel was purchased at 9.45 a.m. and was found to be mouldy at 6 p.m. the same day. A prosecution was authorised and proceedings were taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £20 with £5 costs.

Ref: F.D. 5/71 Briskies - Mouldy

This packet of Briskies (pork croquettes) was purchased at about 4 p.m. on 26th February and on being opened at about 5.45 p.m. the same day were found to be mouldy. On enquiry it was found that the Briskies had been manufactured on 17th February, and were given a 'shelf life' of 5 days. A prosecution was taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £25 with £5 costs.

Ref: F.D. 4/71 and F.D. 6/71

These were offences against the Labelling of Food Regulations. During the course of inspection at the Dumpton Market, the Public Health Inspector noticed one of the stallholders had a number of unlabelled tins of food exposed for sale. Test purchases were made, the tins were without labels and one was marked 'not for re-sale'.

Two weeks later a similar offence was committed by another stallholder in the same market; this time the unlabelled tins were marked with the word 'Salvage'. The offenders were prosecuted - in reference No. 4/71 the defendant failed to appear and was found guilty in his absence on each of two counts, and fined a total of £14 with £5. In reference No. 6/71 the defendant pleaded guilty on each of two counts and was fined a total of £10 with £3 costs.

Ref: F.D. 7/71 - Rum Baba

This was a complaint concerning a Rum Baba purchased on Sunday, 9th May, in which it was alleged that the cream was sour and it was thought to be mouldy. When examined by a Public Health Inspector on 10th May there were specks of mould which could have developed between the time of purchase and examination.

After consideration, the Committee decided that a warning letter was applicable in this case.

Ref: F.D. 8/71 - Chopped Ham with Pork

This complaint concerned a tin of chopped ham with pork, which on being opened was found to be mouldy and discoloured. On examination at the office, very little outward signs of deterioration could be found, but the meat was dried, almost black in colour and coated in a green mould; it would appear that the tin had leaked at a seam. The meat was produced in Denmark, which is outside the jurisdiction of the English courts, and warning letters were sent.

Ref: F.H. 1/71

This was a restaurant found to be without a supply of hot water to the wash-hand basin. The Committee authorised prosecution, but the proprietor installed a hot water supply before information was laid, and the prosecution was dropped.

Ref: F.H. 2/71

This concerned contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations in a greengrocers shop. The matters were attended to before proceedings were commenced and the prosecution was dropped.

Ref: F.D. 9/7 - Chocolate Coated Sponge Cakes - Mouldy

This complaint concerned two chocolate coated sponge cakes purchased from a stall in the Dumpton Market at about 3.30 p.m. and found to be mouldy when opened at 5 p.m. the same day. A prosecution was authorised and taken against the vendor, who pleaded guilty and was fined £15 with £2:10 costs.

Ref: F.D. 10/71 - Chocolate Walnut Whirls

This complaint concerned three chocolate walnut whirls purchased at about 11.30 a.m., and in which the artificial cream filling was found to be mouldy at about 6 p.m. on the same day. The presence of mould was confirmed and a prosecution was authorised. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £25 with £2:10 costs.

Ref: F.D. 11/71 - Canned Spaghetti Rings

This complaint concerned a tin of spaghetti rings containing a foreign body which on examination was found to be a mould growth. On further examination it was found that the tin had been punctured at some time and the hole had become sealed. There was no external evidence of deterioration and the puncture could not have been detected at the time of sale. After consideration the Committee decided that a warning letter should be sent.

Ref: F.D. 12/71 - Chocolate Gateau - Maggots

This complaint concerned a chocolate gateau purchased at 9.15 a.m. and in which it was alleged that, on being cut for tea that same day, live maggots were found on the cut surface. A prosecution was authorised, and proceedings were taken against the vendor, who brought in a warranty defence. The case for the Council was proved, but the case against the vendor was dismissed. No proceedings were taken against the manufacturer.

Ref: F.D. 13/71 - Fly in Sliced Loaf

This complaint concerned a sliced loaf in which a fly was embedded in one of the slices. A prosecution was authorised, and proceedings were taken against the manufacturer who pleaded guilty and was fined £20 with £10 costs.

Ref: F.D. 14/71 - Glass in Jar of Pickle

This complaint concerned a large piece of glass found by the complainant at the bottom of a jar of Branston Pickle which had been purchased some weeks earlier. The glass appeared to have come from a similar jar. A prosecution was authorised and proceedings were taken against the manufacturer who pleaded guilty, and was fined £50 with £10 costs.

Ref: F.D. 15/71 - Butter - Mouldy

This complaint concerned a half pound package of Danish butter, wrapped in foil, which on being opened was found to have patches of mould underneath the foil wrapping. Exhaustive enquiries were made concerning this and after consideration the Committee decided to send warning letters to the manufacturers and the importers.

Ref: F.D. 16/71 - Mouldy Beef Steak and Kidney Pudding

This complaint concerned a partially cooked beef steak and kidney pudding, which on being prepared to complete cooking on the day after purchase was found to be spotted with mould. After consideration the Committee decided that a warning letter should be sent to the manufacturer and the retailer.

Ref: F.D. 17/71 - Chocolate Gateau - Maggot

This complaint concerned an iced chocolate gateau decorated with walnuts and cherries in which a live maggot was seen to emerge from one of the walnuts two days after purchase. The maggot was identified as the larval stage of an insect that does attack this type of crop and the decoration had been added to the cake after baking. After consideration the Committee decided that a warning letter should be sent.

SHELLFISH

The sale of shellfish from stalls in the Pier Yard continues. Mussells, cockles, whelks and jellied eels are offered for sale, served on small plates and eaten on the spot. Washing facilities with a hot and cold water supply to a deep sink and a wash-hand basin are provided in a nearby kiosk for the exclusive use of the stallholders, additionally a bowl of fresh water is maintained on each stall.

Sixteen samples of shellfish have been taken from the stallholders for bacteriological examination. The results indicated that no pathogenic organisms were present.

The prohibition on taking cockles from Pegwell Bay for sale for human consumption, unless they have been subject to steam sterilization, remains in force. Therefore, all cockles offered for sale are imported from other districts under guarantee. Local supplies of mussels and whelks are not reliable, and most of these are also brought in from other areas.

CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 and 1968

There is no heavy industry in the area, therefore very little problem from industrial smoke, and atmospheric pollution is not a real problem. Smoke from domestic premises is declining as more and more premises are converted to central heating with the emphasis away from coal as a direct source of heat. On new installations for space heating, there appears to be a bias towards oil firing. Here chimney heights have to be calculated carefully to ensure that pollution will not occur from S.O_2 and other invisible products of combustion.

One application has been received under Section 6 of the 1968 Act. This relates to the chimney to the heating installation in a school. Having regard to the information given the proposed height was adequate and approval was given.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There are ten licensed caravan sites within the area, giving a total of 556 spaces, an increase of 40 over previous years, accounted for by extension to existing sites.

These sites are licensed for the holiday period only, that is from 1st. March to 31st October in any year, the site with a short term licence has now been brought into line with the others. One small site for 25 caravans is licensed for the whole year, this is for holiday or transitory purposes only. The Caravan Club has two certificated sites within the Borough, these are not subject to licence and are limited to five caravans used only by Club Members. There are no residential sites within the area.

On most sites caravans remain throughout the year, but are not being used during the winter months. On one site there is a planning requirement that it shall be closed at the end of the holiday season, the other maintain a few spaces for touring caravans. These sites are provided with amenities to the standard laid down in the model conditions. There is a growing tendency to provide facilities in excess of the minimum standard, and two site operators have provided swimming pools for the use of patrons. Long term planning permissions have led to the development of these sites as static holiday caravan sites, with larger and more luxuriously appointed caravans, each being connected to the drainage system, given its own water supply, and often bathrooms as well as internal sanitation.

A site in Nethercourt Park is maintained by the Council for 70 tents, and is open from Easter onwards to accommodate the holiday traffic. This site too is provided with amenities to the model standard, including showers and baths. At the peak holiday season, this site becomes filled to capacity, and provision for overflow is available at King George VI Memorial Park.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

The Marina Swimming Pool is the only one available for use by the general public. This is an open air pool under the Council's management, and is open during the summer months. The pool is filled with sea water at the beginning of the season and is operated on the continuous circulation and filtration principle. Chlorination takes place during circulation.

Tests for residual chlorine and pH values are taken daily and samples of the water for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at weekly intervals.

Other pools in the area are not available to the general public; two are confined to school use, two are part of the recreational facilities at two caravan sites and one indoor pool has been installed in an hotel. These are subject to the same control as the public swimming pool at the Marina.

Two slipper baths are available at Charlotte Court, one for men and one for women, and four shower baths are provided for men in the Pier Yard conveniences. Twelve shower baths are provided at the Western Undercliff, six for men and six for women; these are available only during the summer months.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The administration of the Shops Act 1950 remains with the Public Health Department. Observations are kept in the evenings and on Sundays, contraventions are rare, a verbal intimation is usually sufficient to put matters right. The late day opening on Friday evenings by the multiple food shops is very popular with the shoppers. These shops do not keep open beyond 8 p.m. even during the holiday period when closing hours are extended. Many of the shops are operating a five day trading week, closing for one full day, usually Monday, and in others although the half day closing only is observed, assistants working hours are geared to a five day week.

The Council has given the shop keepers the full benefit of the concessions permitted in holiday resorts. During the months of June, July, August and September, the peak holiday season, all shops may keep open until 10 p.m. and the obligation to close on one half day each week is waived. Furthermore, the sale of articles associated with the holiday traffic and all articles of food, with the exception of butchers meat, may be sold on Sundays up to 10 p.m. Although the concessions apply to the whole of the area, only those shops adjacent to the sea front take advantage of all of them, but it is often necessary to remind some shop keepers to return to normal closing hours, especially on Sundays, when the holiday season is over.

In January a London firm carried on a sale of carpets over the week-end, including Sunday, in spite of being warned that the sale of carpets on Sunday would be an offence against the Act.

The facts were reported to the Health and Housing Committee and a prosecution was authorised. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £5 (the maximum) with £5 costs.

A further contravention of the Sunday Trading provisions of the Act was reported to the Committee, this concerned the sale of pre-packed frozen foods, principally meat on Sundays - which is contrary to Section 47 and Section 61 of the Act. The latter section places an absolute prohibition on the sale of meat on Sundays. In this case the Committee decided against a prosecution.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1971 ON THE OFFICES, SHOPS
AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registered Premises

At the end of the year 656 premises were shown on the Register. There were 16 new registrations and 3 deletions, giving a net increase of 13 registered premises over the previous year.

Persons Employed

The total number of persons employed is given as 3,467; 49 more than last year. 1,576 (45.46%) were males and 1,891 (54.54%) were females. The distribution of the labour force in registered premises is as follows:-

Offices	1084
Retail Shops	1613
Wholesale Departments	265
Catering Establishments	493
Canteen, Fuel Storage	12

This may not be the true picture, employers do not have to show variations in staff after the initial registration, but changes are noted as inspections are made. Nor do they have to distinguish between young persons and adults. Not unexpectedly there is a larger number of females employed in this class of work, many are employed part time, particularly so in the retail shops. This has the effect of increasing the number of persons employed without increasing the number of hours worked.

Inspections

A total of two hundred and forty inspections have been made during the year, one hundred and thirty general inspections, and one hundred and ten other inspections.

Contraventions

During the course of inspection, contraventions of various sections are found. This is almost inevitable. The usual procedure is to direct the occupiers attention to these during the inspection, and a confirmatory letter is sent. On re-inspection, it is expected that contraventions are attended to; sometimes it takes a little longer, particularly where structural works are involved. Where co-operation cannot be secured by friendly persuasion, this is rare, prosecutions have to be taken.

The contraventions found during the year are summarised below:-

Section 4	Cleanliness	9
" 5	Overcrowding	1
" 6	Temperature	21
" 7	Ventilation	19
" 8	Lighting	3
" 9	Sanitary Conveniences	10
" 10	Washing Facilities	9
" 12	Clothing Accommodation	4
" 16	Floors, passages and stairs	27
" 24	First Aid	16
	Other Matters	<u>34</u>
	Total	153
		====

No exemptions have been applied for during the year, therefore none have been granted.

Prosecutions

The case against a Supermarket, referred to in the report for 1970, was heard on 25th February, 1971. There were a number of counts, including some under the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the defendants pleaded guilty. The offences against the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were:-

1. The open side of the staircase to the upper platform from the first floor store-room was not guarded by the provision of an efficient means of preventing any persons from accidentally falling through the space between the handrail and the steps of the staircase, no such means being provided at all.

Fine £25

2. The edge of the upper storage platform over the first floor store-room of the said premises was not securely fenced, no such fence being provided.

Fine £25

3. No thermometer was provided on the first floor of the said premises.

Fine £5

4. The goods lift on the said premises was not properly maintained, the suspension ropes of the said lift being worn and splintered.

Fine £25

Information has also been laid against a cinema where certain contraventions have been found in those parts to which the Act applies. Because of repeated adjournments, the hearing had not taken place at the time of writing this report.

Inspectors

Four inspectors are authorised under Section 52 of the Act; all are qualified and practising P.H.I's. There has been no change in the staffing position.

Accidents

Eight accidents have been reported, all were minor in character, none were fatal. In one case only could the management be considered at fault, the sliding door to a cupboard which had fallen on to the employee's foot, causing bruising.

Two were falls on a wet floor while washing was proceeding, two by striking against fixed objects, one injury was caused by a tin of meat falling from a higher shelf in a stock-room, and two whilst using hand tools. Seven of these accidents were in retail shops (six provision shops) and one only in an office.

Each accident is investigated when the report is received, the premises inspected, and the management and the injured person interviewed.

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

The following tables show the number on the register at 31st December 1971, together with the number of inspections and notices and the position concerning defects :-

(i) Inspections.	Number of premises.	Number of : Inspections. Written notices.
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority	25	8 -
Factories not included above in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	137	43 6
Outworkers premises	46	- -
TOTAL	208	51 6

(ii) Defects.

No. of cases in which defects were :-

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred:		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Insp.	Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	6	4	-	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
Insufficient	3	2	-	-	-
Unsuitable	1	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	5	4	-	-	-

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Two complaints of noise nuisance have been received, these concerned industrial processes. An informal approach was made in each case, and the noise level has been reduced to more acceptable limits. It has not been necessary to take any enforcement action.

CINEMAS, THEATRES, DANCE HALLS

There are two cinemas and one theatre in the Borough, these, together with halls for public dancing and other forms of entertainment and other licensed premises, provide for the needs of both residents and visitors throughout the year. The number of premises licensed for public music and/or dancing in the Borough is 89, and conditions in general are satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT

Five premises and a market stall are licensed as Pet shops under the provisions of this Act. These are visited to ensure that the animals are being kept properly and that there is no nuisance.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

At the end of 1971, there were 11 registrations under this Act, four of scrap metal yards and seven persons operating from their homes.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950

The Public Health Inspectors have now become familiar with the operation of this Act. The greatest impact has been at the Hoverport and the Harbour. There are instances of animals being brought into the Hoverport without an import licence; the owner pleading ignorance of the regulations. These animals are detained at the Hoverport and returned by the next available flight. The 'ships pet' has to be watched. Some of the crews of the cargo vessels using the Harbour have a pet animal on board, these animals must be kept on board ship and are not allowed to land. A notice to that effect is invariably served on the master.

Pig farms are visited when notification is received of additions to stock. These new animals must be kept isolated for a period until it is certain they have no infection that could be passed on to other stock.

Lairage accommodation is provided at Manston for the reception of animals prior to export by air from Manston Airport. This lairage is kept under surveillance and records checked, but the place of loading the animals is outside the Borough boundaries, this comes under the supervision of another authority.

The administration of the Diseases of Animals Act is of national importance, and we have cause to be grateful for the help and co-operation of the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints from all sources was 680. These are attended to as quickly as possible, it is important that complaints should be dealt with promptly, and the bona fide complainant can be sure of receiving sympathetic consideration.

NOTICES SERVED.

Intimation notices served 399.

Statutory notices served :

Under Public Health Acts	13
Under Housing Act	15

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 7,280 visits during the year. These were to all types of premises and for a variety of reasons. Some were made as a result of complaints made to the Department, others at the request of builders, but most were routine visits to dwellinghouses, shops, offices, catering premises etc.

PEST CONTROL.

The Department is often called upon for assistance and advice where insect infestations occur, sometimes these are found during the course of inspection or for other purposes. In all cases treatment is carried out immediately the infestation is notified.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

One Rodent Operator is employed part-time on this work, and so far has been able to cope with the complaints. Treatment is carried out free of charge where dwellinghouses are concerned, but a charge is made for business premises. Treatment of infestation in the sewers is carried out at six monthly intervals.

